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Identical letters dated 4 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

With regard to the letter dated 7 October 2013 that the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations sent to both the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (A/68/520-S/2013/595) in order to address issues concerning the border between our countries and allege that mortar shells fired from Syrian territory fell on the Jordanian side of the border, the Syrian Arab Republic would like to express its surprise that Jordan resorted to sending that letter, despite the existence of diplomatic channels through which the two countries can discuss this matter and establish responsibility. In that connection, it would like to note that large amounts of arms and funds and large numbers of terrorists continue to flow through Jordanian territory into Syria. Those funds and arms are used by terrorists to massacre Syrian women, men and children, destroy public and private property, steal national assets and rend the social fabric of the Syrian Arab Republic. These terrorists also randomly fire mortar shells, some of which fall in the territory of neighbouring States.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that it strives assiduously to respect the principle of good-neighbourly relations and cooperation in order to ensure security along the shared border. It therefore calls on Jordan to put an end to any activities that undermine the security and stability of the Syrian Arab Republic and threaten the safety of its citizens, including by preventing terrorists, whether they are Jordanians or the nationals of other countries, from infiltrating into Syria and halting the flow across Jordanian territory of weapons, explosives and funds destined for armed terrorist groups.

The international community has adopted various instruments that oblige Member States to combat terrorism, a phenomenon that threatens State security and stability, cannot be contained by borders and does not recognize international law.

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Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic expects that, instead of presenting a complaint to the Security Council in order to cover up these violations, the relevant Jordanian agencies should cooperate with it in order to control the border, prevent the illegal cross-border flow of arms and terrorists between the two countries and put an end to all activities that adversely affect the territorial integrity and unity of Syria.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 33 (a) and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative